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(74) Agent: **HANSBRO, Kevin, R.**; The Dow Chemical Company, Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 1967, Midland, MI 48641-1967 (US).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES INC.** [US/US]; Washington Street, 1790 Building, Midland, MI 48674 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CHAUDHARY, BHARAT I.** [US/US]; 14 Michelle Court, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US). **COSTEUX, Stephane** [FR/US]; 400 Timbercreek Drive, Apartment 916, Richwood, TX 77531 (US). **KLIER, John** [US/US]; 5717 Stillwater Lane, Midland, MI 48642 (US). **PETERSON, Thomas, H.** [US/US]; 1311 Wychwood Road, Charleston, WV 25314 (US). **WASSERMAN, Eric, P.** [US/US]; 110 Featherbed Lane, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (US).

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(54) Title: THERMALLY-REVERSIBLE CROSSLINKING OF POLYMERS

(57) Abstract: The present invention is a rheology-modifiable polymeric composition or a free-radical crosslinkable polymeric composition, wherein the resulting rheology-modifying bond or crosslinking bond is a thermally-reversible bond. The resulting polymer is prepared from at least one polymer which upon forming free radicals preferentially degrades or carbon-carbon crosslinks. The present invention permits suppression of the preferential reaction while permitting the polymer to be coupled or crosslinked through a thermally-reversible bond. Suppressing the undesirable degradation or carbon-carbon crosslinking reaction and permitting the desirable reaction yield a rheology-modified polymer or a free-radical thermally-reversibly crosslinked polymer.



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